

Application No: 10/790,388
Amendment dated July 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated June 5, 2006

Attorney Docket No: 3926.069

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1-6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A process for laser welding two coated plates, which are positioned closely contacting each other, by a laser beam, wherein the process comprising:

during a first process step the plate facing the laser beam is warmed with the laser beam in such a manner

- that the coating of both plates on their sides facing each other is evaporated, leaving a de-coated area, and

- that no plate is completely melted through, and

during a second process step the two plates are welded along the de-coated area,

wherein both process steps are carried out by the same laser beam with substantially the same output and focusing, however, the second process step is carried out with reduced speed of advance of the laser beam over the surface.

8. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, wherein the laser beam is guided on the surface via a scanner device.

9. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, wherein the laser beam is focused in such a manner that its focus is from 0 and 50 mm from the surface of the laser beam facing plate.

{WP318444;1}

- 3 -

Application No: 10/790,388
Amendment dated July 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated June 5, 2006

Attorney Docket No: 3926.069

10. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, wherein the laser beam is focused in such a manner that its focus is approximately 20 mm from the surface of the laser beam facing plate.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, wherein the laser beam is moved along a main direction of advance to form a seam, and wherein said laser beam is guided during the second process step in such a manner that a transverse movement component is superimposed upon the main direction of advance to produce beam spinning.

13. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, wherein the first and second process steps occur alternatingly in the form of a step seam.

14. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, wherein no plate melts during the first process step.

15. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, wherein said plates are metal plates.

16. (previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, wherein said plates are plastic plates.

{WP318444:1}

- 4 -